

NO. 432

THE RETURN OF

10

ZORRO



FIGHTING BLADES Fencing was an art in Spanish California just as it was in the Old West. Gentlemen spent long, grueling hours learning the lunge, the various parries and guards that made a man a finished fencer. It wasn't at all like modern fencing for sport—no protective masks were used and no careless or flamboyant movements were taught for if a man left himself unguarded in order to make a beautiful but dangerous thrust, his penalty was a vicious wound.



THE SABRE

was the heavy weapon of the cavalryman. Light versions were made for those who preferred the cutting edge for fencing and duelling. It was greatly looked down upon by those who stood by the more courtly rapier or court sword. Its cutting edge made it easy to use on bareback where a wide slash was often more effective than a thrust.

THE COURT SWORD

was an extremely light short sword with a fine plate of metal joining out alongside the blade. This was used to break an opponent's blade. The duellist sought the slender point of his adversary's sword between his thick plate and the metal plate and twisted suddenly, breaking off the blade. Though extremely light, it was a very dangerous weapon—especially in a crowd where a larger sword would be clumsy.

THE RAPIER

is long, usually with a cup guard and most of the time, it has no edges. The rapier was the weapon of the city gentleman as cutting directs. The court habitué used the light court sword, the cavalryman, the sabre and the landed gentry or city aristocrat, the rapier. When properly handled it is probably the most difficult sword to beat. The fencer never lets his point stray far from the target while even the best sabre fencer sometimes slashes.



The RETURN of ZORRO



YOU KNOW MY NAME! BUT PERHAPS
THAT IS NOT TO BE WONDERED AT
IT IS KNOWN THAT YOU ONLY
ABOUT EVERYWHERE IN ALTA
CALIFORNIA! SO YOU MAY KNOW
HOW I CAN GET A MESSAGE TO
THAT FAMOUS OUTLAW WHO CALLS
HIMSELF EL ZORRO, THE FEAR!

DO YOU SAY - ZORRO? AN EL ZORRO?
PERHAPS YOU ARE NOT AWARE THAT
ZORRO HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM
RECENTLY! IT IS THOUGHT THAT
HE IS DEAD!

HE CANNOT BE DEAD -
WHEN I WAS TO
HELPED IN ZORRO!









BARRADO BLEEDED TO TELL YOU THAT YOUR FRIEND HERE IS INTERESTED IN THE AFFAIR. HE FEELS THAT THE SITUATION IS IN SOME DANGER FROM THAT DIRECTION.



WELL, LOST HIS REPUTATION. JIMMIE LANE SAYS HE'S PUTTING ON THE RECORD SO WOODEN PARROT IS FULLY SET. NEEDS A MAN LIKE YOU TO EXPEND HIS.



THEN YOU WOULD HAVE COME TO LIFE AGAIN BY MYSELF.



I HAVE KEPT THE BLACK CLOTHING AND MAKE OF TORRO ALWAYS BEING. DON'T ASK. I HAVE LEFT NEAR THE WOODS. GOOD WITH MUCH. HE CAN GIVE HIS LETTER. IT WHO HIS BLACK HORSE.



ANY RATHERFUL REWARD? BUT HAVE FOR FORTUNES.



---WHAT THE GOVERNOR'S REWARD FOR THE PARTNER OF TORRO--- DEAD OR ALIVE--- STILL STAYS?



WOULD THAT BETTER EL TORRO, MY SON?

NOT IN THE SLIGHTEST, MY FATHER! ---BARRADO! HAVE TORRO'S MARK AND CLOTHING READY WHEN I REACH MY ROOM!



TORRO! ---FOR ONE MORE TIME AT LEAST--- TORRO FROD AGAIN!



RETURNED TO HER CHAMBER WITH HER OWN THOUGHTS. PARROT STROOKED THE STRINGS OF HER CLAVICHORD.

I WONDER IF --- IF BARRADO HAS YET CARRIED MY MESSAGE? IF HE HAS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. JUST POSSIBLE. THAT I MIGHT SEE TORRO AGAIN!













AND
SO,
A FEW
MINUTES
LATER



"WELL, DORINO—
KEEP YOUR
COURAGE!"

"I HAVE YOU TO
SUPPORT IT
NOW, DORINO!"



ON THE STAIRS,
DORINO BECOMES
A NOTICABLE
SHADOW



"SHE'S GONE INTO THE
KITCHEN! IF ROBERT
ELISE, COME!"



BUT AT THAT
MOMENT

"A PERFECT
CANNON!"



"GOODHEART! HELP!
IT IS THE
FROG!"

WITH A SWEEP OF HIS HAND
DORINO KICKS OUT THE LIGHT



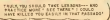
THE DATE! IT'S
SOMEWHERE BEHIND
THE FOURTH—
BETWEEN THE WALLS...















BE PROMPT TO TURN OVER YOUR RECORDS
AS SOON AS I RETURN with my sister
FROM SANTA BARBARA? *suppose address,
DEAR?*



DISMISSED... FOR HIS FAULT OF
MY OWN! EXCEPT THAT I HAVE
REGISTERED SOME OF HIS
RELATIONS WITH YOU!

RECORDED, RECORDED!
BY DE WY 800, DATE
MAY 5 COME TO
CASA CONCORDIA!



PERHAPS WE MAY
BE ABLE TO FIND OUT
WHY?

AND WHO?

I AM SURE! I HAVE PLACED
MY HANDS TO THE SCOTCH
PARTS... TO THREATEN THE
FLEECE FRIENDS WHO WOULD
ALSO BE BROUGHT HERE ARE
SOME PARTS WHICH ARE
VIOLENT, SURELY I AM NOT
WHEN HE WAS NOT HIMSELF



BUT THERE...
THESE PARTS ARE
WHOLESALE! THEY
ARE LEADING THE
CITY! TWO
WOMEN!

I SUSPECTED AS MUCH! HERE ALSO IS
SOME MORE! THESE SAME SCOTCH
TOOK FROM YOUR FINEST MASTER BY
TRICKERY!



YOU ARE INDEED A FRIEND OF
CASA CONCORDIA, SCOTCH PARTS!
BUT WITH SOME VIOLENT COMES
FROM THE PARTS OF
SANTA BARBARA, MY SERVICE
IS GOOD!

I THINK NOT, ALREADY! MUCH CAN
HAPPEN BEFORE THEN TO OPEN
SOME SCOTCH PARTS!







HOW WERE WHEELS... AND
JOE REHARDT... TRACER...
THE WHEELS GO! I WILL
HAVE THEM WHEELED NOW
... TOMORROW!

DOUBT IN THAT MIND
EASILY... BUT AS YET
THERE IS NO PROOF
WHY NOT LEAVE IT
BEING THE BEST
GAINED IN YOUR
CONSCIENCE?



LET ME BE THERE, IN DEEDS, BUT READY
TO PROTECT YOU FROM ANY ACTUAL HARM!
LET HIGHER COURTS BE SATISFIED TO
LET ME APPEAR AT YOUR CALL! THEN THE
FALL, COME AND HIS CONSPIRATORS...

...WILL FIND
THEMSELVES
TRAPPED!



I WILL DO IT, SEIGNOR DONN? BUT WHAT
IS YOUR PRICE FOR THIS TRICK
WHEELING?

I PROMISE YOU I WILL ARRANGE IT
WHEN AS THIS AFFAIR IS FINISHED
THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA, AND YOU
ALREADY DEBT OF GRATITUDE,
SEIGNOR DONN?



UNTIL THEN, EXCELLENCY
... SEIGNOR!



BEST
REASONING
IN THE
FOREFAY
OF THE
BLACK
TWIN TELL
STANDS TO
PRODUCE
A BLESSING
ON THE
THROES OF
VICTORY
... DONN



... I WILL
WHEELS
COME NOW!

AS THE RUN CLIMBS HIGHER THE LONG
CARAVAN BEGINS ITS SLOW WENDING
PROGRESS THROUGH THE DESERT
WILDS THAT LEAD TO THE
WINDY RANCH.



"MY FATHER, I HAVE DECIDED
TO MARRY. WILL YOU HAVE THE
HONOR TO JOIN DON VICENTE
CARRASCO... TO PERMIT ME TO
SEEK HIS SISTER'S HAND?"

"MARRY TO DON VICENTE, A
MAN WHO IS AS WEALTHY AS
ME BOTH FATHER AND
MOTHER, YES?"



IN THE WINDY RANCH, DON VICENTE
LAZARUS TAKES HIS SISTER

"FIRST TELL ME MY SON, DO YOU EXPECT TO WIN HER
HEART AS YOUR PRESENT LADY, BLACKHAIR,
SAYS... OR AS TOMORROW?"

"FATHER, AS BOTH
WILL YOU AND
MOTHER, AT DON
VICENTE'S PLACE."



TWO HOURS BEFORE SUNSET THE VISITORS REACH THE
SPRAWLING, PROSPEROUS RANCH OF THEIR HOST



ABRUPTLY, A WILD BARR OF HORSES APPEARS, TELLING
AND SHOWING OFF FEATS OF MAN AND BEAST. THEY
ARE THE HORSES WHO BELONG TO THE RANCH



AND NOW IS HAPPY WELCOME
TO THE VISITORS

THE HOST AND OWNER OF THIS PLEASANT
THE GARDENS AND HIS MILITARY AIDE

MY HUMBLE DUTY
IS YOURS, EXCELLENCY!
AND YOURS, CAPTAIN
QUINTER!

SALUD, DON
TOMAS

SEÑOR
BE SEATED!



SOON, CAMPFIRE AND BLAZING UNDER THE REDDER TREES
TENTS OF STEADFAST ARE SET UP-- FOR THOSE THAT THE
WALLS MUST ACCOMMODATE



AND IN THE
EVENING, COOL WINDS,
THE DANCEFLOORS
AND THEIR LADIES
BEGET TO MOVE ABOUT



BEST HERE, FAMILIARITY--WITH THE
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
IF YOU FEEL COME ALONG, PLEASE
TREAT HIM-- DON'T LET HIM GO!

--AS IT WOULD
A ROOM--
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE

PARTICULAR TO HAVE
WE WENT TO SPEND
TWO OF THE DAY
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE

LOOK, WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE--
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE



WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE--
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE

WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE--
WINDS--IT'S A GOOD SIGN--
FOR HIS FORTUNE











WENT TO
CATER,
A BLIND
OLD WOMAN
THROUGHT
SILENTLY
ON WHEN
THE
MURDER
WAS.



A LEAN, BARKED FIGURE IN BLUE
FOLLOWED IT— THEN ANOTHER,
HEAVIER MAN, IN RED



BE QUIET, EXCELLENCY—
YOU ARE A DEAD MAN.

WHY
WON'T
YOU
LISTEN?



PLEASE? I AM YERON ZORAD, AND I HAVE
A BUSINESS PROPOSITION HERE. I WANT A
GROUP WHO CAN TAKE CONTROL OVER CERTAIN
BARRACKS— LAST IN BARBELL.

THIS
IS
INTERESTING



MY NAME NATURALLY DOES NOT APPEAR
ON THE DOCUMENT— BUT MY ASSOCIATES
DO. A FRESHMAN TRADER, AND A
CAMEL, LOTS OF GOLD, AND YOU AS
WILL BE A LEFT PARTNER TO THIS
PROFITABLE BUSINESS EXCELLENCY

DO YOU HAVE ME FOR
A CRIMINAL, TOO?
WHAT? WHY DO YOU
THINK I WOULD
WANT?



BECAUSE, IF YOU DO NOT AGREE— I AM
GIVE THIS DOCUMENT— YOU WILL BE
FOUND DEAD HERE IN YOUR BED. IS
THAT NOT ENOUGH REASON,
EXCELLENCY? ZORAD DOES
NOT JOKES











